



## **Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes**

Date: December 12, 2018

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Town Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Bill Copithorne, Charles Giroux, Michael Gordon, Melissa Laube, Howard Muise, Scott Smith

Members Missing: Wayne Chouinard, Lenard Diggins, Pamela Heidell, Brian Kmetz, Jeffrey Maxtutis, Corey Rateau

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***Howard Muise called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.***

**Public Comments:** Rebecca Girash brought to TAC's attention that traffic along Lombard Terrace has been moving quickly in an area that often has pedestrians and chickens crossing. There is no signage indicating that it is a one-lane underpass. She noted that signs would be important from a safety perspective. Howard Muise stated that TAC will look into if signs have been removed, since they were added previously. Girash noted that it seems like two speed bumps have also been flattened over time. She will send the issue to the Select Board, who may refer it to TAC.

**Administration:** Minutes of November 13, 2018 were approved unanimously. The Individual Action List and Active Projects List were distributed. Chuck Giroux and Jeff Maxtutis will fill vacancies on TAC. Brian Kmetz will take over coordination with the School Committee.

### **Stop Signs on Hayes at Maynard/Mystic Lake:**

Dan Amstutz presented key points from a memo that he had drafted on the topic. The Town collected volume and speed data at Hayes/Maynard. Less than 10% of vehicles were going over the 25 mph speed limit. From 2016-2018, 3 crashes were in the area due to a failure to yield. The intersection does not meet volume or crash warrants to introduce a STOP or YIELD sign. But, these signs could be used to improve compliance with normal traffic rules, which would be allowable under MUTCD guidance. Amstutz noted that the Town does not have the authority to restrict turns off of Mystic Valley Parkway (MVP) onto Hayes Street because MVP is under DCR jurisdiction. Melissa Laube commented that she would find a 2-way STOP at the intersection less confusing than a 4-way STOP. Howard Muise commented that a YIELD sign would be unusual and that he would prefer a STOP if the Town were to include a sign at this intersection. Bill Copithorne noted that Wayne Chouinard and Corey Rateau were concerned about the intersection failing to meet warrant thresholds. A member of the public commented

that 14 children live within one block of the intersection and suggested a “SLOW-CHILDREN” sign or a “YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS” sign as an alternative. Another member of the public commented that Mystic Lake Drive has higher volumes and speeds than Maynard, so that the data collection should have been done on Mystic Lake Drive. Other suggestions from the residents in attendance included a “DO NOT ENTER” sign, and making Hayes into a one-way street. Residents noted that the issue is primarily during the peak hour. Muise determined that TAC will revisit this issue at the February meeting and may conduct additional counts, although these may not be ready for the February meeting.

### **Town Issues and Activities:**

Bill Copithorne distributed a memo on DPW project updates:

- The Arlington Center Safe Travel Project is almost completed. Copithorne will review the text for the Blank-Out sign.
- The design process is ongoing for the Mystic Street Bridge. The \$600,000 sewer siphon rebuild contract has been awarded and permitting is underway. Work is likely to begin in January, weather permitting.
- DPW will be meeting with Jim Feeney to discuss Waze data.
- Miscellaneous items included sidewalk and ramp construction and rehabilitation and the pavement condition survey that is underway.
- There is a new Highway Supervisor, Jeff Rikeman.

Daniel Amstutz did not have additional updates for the Planning Dept. beyond items on the agenda for later in the meeting.

**Traffic Calming at Thorndike Street Entrance to Magnolia Park:** Amstutz met with the resident who raised this issue. Based on their conversation, Amstutz recommended establishing a No Parking area for 20 feet on either side of the park entrance on the southbound side of Thorndike Street. Amstutz also recommended installing playground warning signs on both approaches to the park entrances. TAC approved the recommendations unanimously, which will go in front of the Select Board.

**Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grants:** Amstutz noted that these grants are intended for projects between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000. Applications are due on January 11, 2019. Based on the Complete Streets Prioritization list, the Town is considering applying for improvements at the Stratton School. This could include sidewalk upgrades on Overlook, Mountain, and Pheasant Streets. Copithorne commented that sidewalk work is already complete on Overlook, and Mountain is in the budget. The SRTS grants would pay for design and construction, and could be useful for Pheasant and Dickson, as well as Mountain. A resident of the area suggested adding curbs on Hemlock, and additional bicycle racks around the school. The resident also suggested considering improvements to the dirt path off of Acton St. near Ottoson Middle School. Muise will draft a letter of support for the Stratton School improvements.

**Amend TAC By-Laws to Fill Officer Vacancies.** Muise presented an amendment to the TAC by-laws to fill officer vacancies. TAC will vote on them at the next meeting.

**TAC Social:** Muise will check availability of the venue for January 9, 2019.

**Crosswalk Guidelines:** Scott Smith reviewed the updated TAC crosswalk guidelines. Updates since the last meeting include using the posted speed to assess the required sight distance, and including parking restrictions on either side of the crosswalk. TAC will begin using the Guidelines for crosswalk requests and will vote on the new guidelines at the February meeting.

**Arlington High School Traffic Review:** Muise provided an update that the TAC working group met with the architect, and that the Town may not have funds for additional traffic analysis requests. Scott Smith will coordinate with ABAC and Muise will coordinate with EALS on potentially adding one member from each group to the TAC Working group, to continue to look at pedestrian and bicycle access. The schematic design is due in the spring.

**Crosswalk on Summer at Buzzell Field/Victoria Street:** Corey Rateau and Wayne Chouinard will conduct a site visit and consider potential parking adjustments and/or relocations to improve visibility in this area.

**Crosswalk at Academy at Maple:** Smith suggested a traffic count. The sight distance for cars traveling on Academy St towards Mass Ave. may limit the opportunity to install a crosswalk at this intersection.

**Crosswalk on Medford at Webcowet/Hamilton:** Muise observed limited activity at this intersection, including from bus passengers. He found limited justification for a new crosswalk due to low volumes. Smith recommended adding a crosswalk on the north side of Warren St. across Medford St. as an alternative to address the issue. TAC unanimously approved the new crosswalk at Warren St.

**Entry Restriction on Glenburn at Park:** Muise noted that Chouinard had conducted counts in the area, but not of vehicles turning from Park Ave onto Glenburn Rd. Muise will request that Chouinard conduct additional counts for this.

**School Issues/Pedestrian Flags:** There was nothing to report on this item.

**Traffic Calming on Kensington Park:** There was nothing to report on this item.

**Appleton Street/Paul Revere Road:** Muise will use a vendor to get counts at this intersection to see if a warrant would be met for a traffic signal.

**Safe Pedestrian Access at Bus Stops:** Muise will meet with Melissa Laube to review recommendations

***Howard Muise adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.***